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A Strange and Horrible

RELATION

Of a Bloody and Inhumane Murther Committed
on the Body of a *Jewish* Woman, by the
Command of her Father a *Jewish* Priest.

OR THE

Bloody Servant,

Being a Full and True Account of
The Tryal, Condemnation, and Execution,
Of the Barbarious Murther lately Committed in

S H R O P S H I R E

BY ONE

John Adams,

Who Cut the Throat first of *Anne Harris*, his
Masters Wife, and afterwards of *Sarah Harris* her
Daughter, with a Knife (as he said) given him for that pur-
pose by the Devil, and then having Robb'd them of what
Mony they had, set Fire on the House.

L O N D O N, Printed in the Year, 1674.

*A Strange Relation of a Horrible Murther, Committed
on the Body of a Jewish Woman, by the command of
her own Father a Jewish Priest.*

A Jewish Priests Daughter being with Child by a Gentleman who pretended love to her, but when her Father know it, he kept her in, and never allowed her to see him afterward, but when her full time came that she should be delivered, there was hired a Sedan to fetch a Mid-wife, and they carried her through so many by Alleys and Lanes, and being Night, she knew not which way, nor where she went, but they conveyed her to a house, where in the first Room she came in, there was a very large Fire, and six Gentlemen all Maskt, the Mid-wife being amaz'd, she asked them if they had any thing for her to do, they replied they had, whereupon one of them had her up in another Room, where four Gentlemen were in black and Maskt, and a very handsome young Gentlewoman in paine, crying and taking on very much, the Mid-wife desiring her to be patient, there was no fear of her safe delivery, but she said it was not that troubled her, but she said that when she was delivered, she must be Burned in that fire that was below, within an hour after she was delivered: After she had Delivered the Woman, one of the Gentlemen gave her Thirty Guines in her hand, and sent her away in the Sedan, she was hardly got down stayers, but she heard her screech and cry. This action was performed so secretly, that the Midwife cannot tell in what part of the City it was acted, wishing she could make a further discovery of those unnatural and Bloody Murtherers.



T H E
B L O O D Y S E R V A N T,
O R,

The Horrid Murther in Shrop-shire, &c.

John Adams, the Committer of this Barbarous Murther, which we are going to relate, lived at a place called *Stretton* in the County of *Sallop*, as an hired (though not menial) Servant to *John Harris* a Sawyer in that Town, and had workt with him Several yeares, and during all that time, carryed himself very civilly and honestly; but see! what a mighty Temptation is money, and how dangerous a thing it is to set our Hearts upon Coverousnesse, and getting Riches by unlawful means; this story is here- of a most pregnant Instance; For though this poor man had hitherto led an unblamable life, yet not being solidly grounded in virtuous principles, or to speak more properly, wanting the grace of God, without which

which all our Inclinations are evil, altogether evil, and that Continually; he was no sooner Baited by the Devil with an opportunity, but he Committed one of the most Barbarous Crimes that has been heard of in our Age, though to fruitful, and every day teeming with fresh and unheard of Assassinations, and bloody Cruelties; For about the moneth of *July* last, his Dame (who managed the business of a Dary distinctly by her self, as her husband did his own trade) having sold two Cows, and received the Summ of Ten Pounds for them, which this *John* their man very well knowing, presently began to harbour the accursed thoughts of Robbing her of this money, and proposed several stratagems in his wicked Brain for the accomplishment of this design; At last the Devil and he concluded their Consultation in a Resolution which he forthwith Resolves to put in Execution, And accordingly on the 13. day of *January* instant, his Master having taken some worke at a place called *Cardington*, about Eight Miles from *Streton*, went out somewhat early in the morning with this fellow, intending to go thither to his businessse, But *John* heareing as we said before, concluded on his black Project, in order threunto, purposely leaves some of his Tools behind at home, and when they had wlaht about a mile, All of a sudden, Cries out to his Master, that he had forgot them, who presently bid him run back for them, and said that he would walk on before, which was what his man desired; Accordingly the fellow came back towards the house, approching within sight of it, and revolving in his mind what he was going about, his

Conscience

Conscience as yet not wholly seared, began to fly in his face, and check him from so base an Action, though at that time (as he has since affirmed) he meant his Dame no hurt, but only to have bound her or the like, and taken her money, and so have run clear out of the Country, but then he began to fear, she knowing him so well, Hue and Cry would be sent out after him, and that he should not cleverly escape, whereupon he began to think of waving the designe wholly, and doubtlesse had so done, If the Devil (who always attends persons that go on such desperate attempts, still pricking them forwards to their finial distruction) had not stept in Just in the nick to confirm him in the aforesaid Hellish Resolution, and render it more hainous, by adding the Guilt of Murther to the Crime of Theft; For as he was walking near the house in the fields thus melancholly, and troubled in his thoughts, not knowing what to do, Behold to his apprehension, two men in black (undoubtedly two Feinds in Masquerade) appeared to him, and demanded the cause why he was so Melancholly, and assured him it lay in their power to help him, whatsoever the matter might be, He thereupon reveals his mind to them, and said his Dame had received Ten pounds which was now in the house, and that he had a mind to it, but did not know how to get it securely, whereupon one of the seeming men pulled out a long knife with a black haft, and turning crooked, almost like a little Scymetar from under his Coat, and said (as he since attested at his death) go and Cut thy Dames Throat with this, and thou shalt never be discovered,

nor

nor so much as mistrusted to be concerned in it, and besides, shall never want as long as thou livest, upon which persuasions, He takes new Courage to perpetrate the villany, and receiving the small Knife from them, goes boldly with it to the house, where he found his Dame Innocently, all alone, at her Wheel a Spinning, but little Dreaming that the tread of her life was so soon to be Cut off; she no sooner saw him, but very kindly she demanded the reason of his so sudden unexpected return, but his heart was too much set upon wicked deeds to answer her with words, and therefore instead of a reply, he run up furiously unto her, and dragging her by the hair to the ground, with the aforesaid Knife barbarously Cut her Throat, making an Orifice about Seaven Inches long, and above two deep, so that her Wind-pipe was Cut clear asunder, At which inforced passage her affrighted Soul wisted forth in a Crimson Flood, and left her soon breathlesse Corps weltring in its own blood on the Floor whilst the inhumane Murderer greedily fell to Search and pillage the house, but looking through the Window saw his Dames Daughter coming along the next field, having been at Mill at the next Village; He now knew not what to do for he found he should be discovered if he did not dispatch her also, and therefore slipping behind the door, and holding his Knife ready Just as she came in, he Caught her about the Neck, and Cut her Throat in the same manner as he had done her Mothers, and then applied himself again to Ransack the house, where at last he found the said 10. Pounds in mony, and two Gold
Rings

Rings which he put into his Pocket, And to Cover his bloody Fact, Sets the house on fire, Concluding that people would Judge it came by Accident and that the two Women were Casually burned in it, and having set the Thatch all on fire he got away undiscovered by any, but it happened that a Butchers boy coming presently by with some Cattel seeing the house on fire gave notice to the neighbours, who came in so Seasonably that in short time they quenched it, and then found the two Bodies, their hinder-parts allmost Burnt to peices, but their Heads and shoulders untouched, so that their gaping Wounds still with fresh Blood plainly appeared, whence it was evident that they must have been Murther'd, and the House set on fire on purpose, but who should do it, they were Ignorant, till providence discovered it: For the Murtherer, though before he resolved to run quit out of the Country, yet had not now power so to do, nor yet durst he appeare abroad, but lay Lurking in Woods, and out-barns therabouts, and the next Night Robed another house, but met with very little booty, his absenting himself made his Master and all others Conclude him the person guilty, and at last upon strict search they found him on the top of an Hay-Recke, and took the money and Rings in his Pocket, Upon his Examination before a Justice, he Confessed the whole matter, and being Committed to Goal, was at the Quarter-sessions of Shrewsbury, Condemned to dye, and be Hanged up in Chains near the place where he did the Fact; Before his Death, he seemed exceeding penitent, and desired
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very passionately at the place of Execution, that all
Servants might take warning by him, not to Entertain
the least thought of wronging those they dwell with,
but to be Content with their honest wages, and be-
ware of Seducing temptations which had brought him
to that miserable and untimely End, the Knife was
produced in Court at his Tryal, and is now to be
seen publickly in Shrewsbury being of a very un-
usual shape, and what is very remarkable, some of
the blood sticking on it, can by no means be got off,
but remains still as fresh as if it had been but just now
contracted.

F I N I S.
